THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Tenth Plan allocation for environmental research & its management in the Ministry is Rs. 178 crores.

(b) to (d) Financial assistance is provided to various Research institutions/universities including Non-Government Organizations to carry out environmental Research. These organizations have full freedom to carry out research as per the specified objective and plan to work.

Phasing out of mercury

4040. SHRI P.R. RAJAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how much tonnes of mercury is being imported to the country;

(b) whether his Ministry would implement some regulations to phase out his toxic metal from the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per information of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry 155.43 tonnes of mercury has been imported during 2005-06 into the country.

(b) and (c) At present there is not proposal to regulate phase out of mercury.

Global warming

4041. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been mooted by the Chairman of the Inter-Government Panel on Climate Change to set up a high -level taskforce to deal with the emerging climate- change scenario in the wake of first plant of IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report;

(b) whether according to Indian experts immediate physical impacts of climate change to larger enviornment processes and the cost would need to be factored and also on the impacts of global warming on biodiversity in Asia's case, about 50 percent of flora and fauna diversity could suffer some or the other effect; and

(c) if so, whether Prime Minister has considered this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) A proposal was received from Dr. R.K. Pachauri though Prime Minister's Office before the release of first part of the Inter-government Panal on Climate Change suggesting to set up a high-level taskforce to articulate Policies and develop a strategy for the emerging climate change scenarios. The Ministry has recently set up and "Expert Committee on impact of Climate change", Under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India.

Control of sanctuary/tiger reserves by naxalities

4042. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of sanctuaries/tiger reserves are being controlled by Naxalites;

(b) if so, what corrective measures have been taken or proposed to be taken to wipeout Naxalites from sancturies or tiger reserve area; and

(c) what are the names and number of villages which come under jurisdiction of sancturies/tiger reserve in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Information in this regard is being collected from States and would be laid on the Table of the House.